

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL IBADAN

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2903

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI

SUBJECT: STATUS OF SOME NIGERIAN POLITICAL ASPIRANTS

1. IN CONVERSATIONS THE PAST FEW DAYS, TWO NIGERIAN POLITICIANS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THEIR PRESENT POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS. CHIEF GABRIEL AKIN-DEKO SAID HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHICH TO PURSUE, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE EITHER GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE OR FEDERAL PRESIDENT. THE OTHER WAS BOLA IGE WHO HAS SAID THAT HE WILL TRY FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP OF OYO STATE.

2. COMMENT: AKIN-DEKO COULD WELL BE ACCUSED OF DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR ON ASPIRATIONS FOR THE HIGHEST NATIONAL OFFICE, BUT HE ASSURES ME HE HAS A CHANCE FOR BOTH. I SUSPECT HE HAS AN OUTSIDE ONE IN ONDO STATE IF HE CAN LINE UP BEHIND-THE-SCENES PULLER GEN. ADEBAYO. HIS ADVANCED AGE WORKS FOR HIM AND AGAINST HIM. ON BOLA IGE, HE IS POPULAR AND BRIGHT BUT MAY WELL HAVE TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND MENTOR CHIEF AWOLowo IF HE STANDS A CHANCE TO GAIN STATE-WIDE SUPPORT. IN ANY CASE, HIS YOUNG AGE AND HIS DEVOTION TO POLITICS WILL PUT HIM IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICS FOR AS LONG AS THEY CONTINUE. HOYT

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